AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1-6. (Canceled)

7. (Currently Amended) A clip of fasteners for use in securing together two superimposed structural components, said clip comprising:

a plastic strip having lengthwise extending top and bottom surfaces and two opposite side surfaces, a series of mutually aligned holes in the strip with each hole extending perpendicular to and between said top and bottom surfaces, each hole having a plurality of inwardly extending fastener-gripping ribs extending lengthwise between said top and bottom surfaces and webs connecting each rib with each adjacent rib, said webs being ~~a web between each rib formed~~ integral with said top surface and spaced from said bottom surface, said ribs and said webs of each hole having inner portions that are aligned to define a circular opening concentric with said each hole with said opening having a diameter smaller than the diameter of said each hole, and

a fastener mounted in each of said ~~holes~~ circular openings, each fastener comprising a shaft having a tapered tip at one end and a head at its other end, said shaft also having (1) a drill portion that extends toward said head from said tapered point, (2) a screw portion comprising a helical thread that extends from ~~adjacent~~ said flutes to adjacent said head, and (3) cutting blade means projecting laterally from said drill portion adjacent said screw portion, said cutting blade means extending radially from the axis of said shaft a distance greater than said helical thread,

each fastener having its said screw portion gripped by said ribs and webs of the said circular opening in which said each fastener is mounted,

said head of each fastener extending outwardly beyond the periphery of said shaft ~~but~~ and having a diameter larger than ~~the~~ said

circular opening defined by said ribs and webs but smaller than the diameter of said holes, said head also having a top surface and a tapered surface, said top surface having means adapted for engagement by a driving tool for rotating said fastener in a direction to cause said drill portion to drill a hole through two superimposed structural components and said threaded portion to screw into ~~said~~ the lower of said structural components, and said tapered surface having a series of circumferentially spaced ribs adapted to function as cutting blades for cutting through said fastener-gripping ribs and said webs when ~~said~~ simultaneously said fastener is driven down and rotated relative to said ribs and webs.

8. (Original) A clip of fasteners according to claim 7 wherein said cutting blade means comprises a pair of blades.

9. (Original) A clip of fasteners according to claim 8 wherein said ribs on the head of each fastener have a generally rectangular cross-sectional shape.

10. (Original) A clip of fasteners according to claim 7 wherein said ribs on the head of each fastener extend to and join the outer surface of the shaft of said each fastener.

11. (Original) A clip of fasteners according to claim 7 wherein each head of each fastener has a recess adapted to be operatively engaged by a tool bit for rotatively driving said each fastener.

12. (Original) A clip of fasteners according to claim 7 wherein said strip is formed of a moderate density thermoplastic material.

13. (Original) A clip of fasteners according to claim 12 wherein said plastic strip comprises a polymer selected from the group consisting of polyethylene, polypropylene, and nylon.

14. (currently amended) A fastener clip for use in supplying fasteners to a driver tool, said clip comprising:

a plastic strip comprising top and bottom surfaces and a plurality of holes extending between said top and bottom surfaces, each hole having a plurality of circumferentially spaced fastener-gripping ribs extending lengthwise between said top and bottom surfaces and webs ~~formed~~ between successive ribs at said top surface of said strip, said ribs and said webs extending inwardly of said hole the same distance and together defining a circular opening smaller than said each hole; and

a series of fasteners each mounted in one of said holes, each of said fasteners comprising a shaft having a tapered tip at one end thereof and a head at a second opposite end thereof, said shaft also having a drill section that extends from said tapered tip toward said head, a ~~helical threaded~~ screw section comprising a helical screw thread extending ~~from adjacent~~ between said drill section ~~to adjacent~~ and said head, and cutting blade means formed integral with and projecting radially of said drill section proximate to said screw section, said screw section being surrounded and gripped by said fastener-gripping ribs, said head extending outwardly beyond the periphery of said shank and having a top surface and a tapered bottom surface, said top surface of said head having means adapted for engagement by a driving tool for rotatively driving said fastener, and said tapered bottom surface of said head having a series of circumferentially spaced ribs adapted to function as cutting blades for cutting through said ribs and said webs when rotated under a downward axial force relative to said strip.

15. (Currently Amended) A ~~fastener~~ clip according to claim 14 wherein said drill section has two cutting flutes.

16. (Currently Amended) A clip according to claim 14 wherein said fasteners are disposed so that said heads have a maximum diameter less than the diameter of said holes and greater than the diameter of said openings.

17. (Original) A clip according to claim 14 wherein said fasteners are disposed so that said heads are elevated above said top surface of said strip.

18. (Original) A clip according to claim 14 wherein the maximum diameter of said helical threaded section is greater than the maximum diameter of the portion of said drill section but less than the diameter of the circle of rotation of the periphery of said cutting blade means.

19. (Original) A clip according to claim 14 wherein said strip is characterized by having six mutually spaced fastener-gripping ribs extending inwardly of each of said openings.

20. (New) A clip according to claim 14 wherein said webs have a thickness that is a fraction of the spacing between said top and bottom surfaces of said strip.

21. (New) A fastener clip for use in supplying fasteners to a driver tool, said clip comprising:

a plurality of fasteners each comprising a shaft having (a) a tapered tip at one end thereof, (b) a head at a second opposite end thereof, (c) cutting flutes that extend from said tapered tip toward said head, (d) a screw section comprising a helical screw thread extending from said flutes to adjacent said head, and (e) a pair of relative thin cutting wings projecting from the cutting flutes adjacent to said screw section, said head having a diameter greater than said screw section, a top surface and a tapered surface extending away from said top surface toward said shaft, said top surface having means adapted for engagement by a driving tool for rotating said fastener in a direction to cause said thread to screw into a substrate, and said tapered surface having a series of circumferentially spaced ribs adapted to function as cutting blades when the fastener is rotated on its own longitudinal axis; and

a plastic strip comprising top and bottom sides characterized by top and bottom surfaces respectively and a plurality of holes extending upwardly from said bottom surface toward said top surface, each hole extending perpendicularly to said top and bottom surfaces and being characterized by a plurality of circumferentially spaced fastener-gripping ribs extending lengthwise between said top and bottom surfaces and webs connecting each rib with each adjacent rib at said top surface of said strip, said ribs and said webs extending inwardly of said each hole the same distance and together defining a circular opening smaller than said each hole;

said fasteners being mounted in said strip, one at each hole, with said screw sections of said fasteners being gripped by the said ribs and webs associated with each hole, said heads projecting above said top surface of said strip, and said screw thread, said cutting wings and said cutting flutes projecting below said bottom surface of said strip,

whereby when said head of one of said fasteners is engaged by a downwardly biased rotating tool bit of a rotary impact driver and rotatively driven in a direction to (a) cause said drill portion to drill a hole through two superimposed structural components and said threaded portion to screw into the lower of said structural components and (b) drive said one fastener down and out of said strip, said circumferentially spaced ribs said head of said one fastener will cut through said fastener-gripping ribs and said webs as said one fastener is rotated and driven down and out of said strip.

22. (New) A clip according to claim 21 wherein said ribs extend from said top surface to said bottom surface and said webs are relatively thin and form an end wall closing off the spaces between said fastener-gripping ribs as said top side of said strip.

23. (New) A clip according to claim 21 wherein said ribs on said head have a rectangular cross-sectional shape.

24. (New) A clip according to claim 21 wherein said ribs on said head have a triangular cross-sectional shape.

25. (New) A clip according to claim 21 wherein the spacing between said top and bottom surfaces is about 0.310 inch and said webs have a thickness of about 0.010 inch.